Reviewer’s report

Title: A Hospital-based Surveillance for Japanese Encephalitis in Bali, Indonesia

Version: 1 Date: 27 January 2006

Reviewer: George Ludwig

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript represents a well written work describing a medical facility-based study for Japanese encephalitis in Bali, Indonesia. The work highlights the importance of active surveillance for the accurate reporting of Japanese encephalitis incidence and for determining an appropriate control strategy. The results and conclusions are well supported by the data and represent an important and useful contribution to our base of knowledge regarding this important zoonotic disease.

Note - in the future, please number manuscript pages to make reviewing and commenting easier on the reviewers. For the purposes of this review, the title page serves as page number 1.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Page 3, line 4. The study was based on a population of 599,120 children. The sentence implies that that many children were actually enrolled in the study. Please reword.

2. Page 6, line 18. What does "All" mean in this sentence - all pediatricians and general practitioners in Bali or all in the surveillance centers - please define.

3. Page 9, last sentence. This sentence is confusing. Are you saying that the male to female ratio among cases was similar to that of the same age group in the general population? Please clarify.

4. Page 10, line 13. 16(30%) used here is a statistical inference. This inference is not clear from the text. Please clarify.

5. Page 10, line 21. Since figure 1 shows only average monthly cases, this statement cannot be determined from the data. Either provide additional data or reword the sentence to reflect the presented data.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. Page 11, line 2. Change "month lag of the usual.." to "month lag behind the usual.."
2. Page 11, first sentence, second paragraph. Change to "Only one village produced more than a single JE case during the course of the study."

3. Page 12, line 15. Change "placebo groups of vaccine.." to placebo groups observed during vaccine..."


**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests